

PATENT  
USA.1011**REMARKS**

1. The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. The Applicants have amended the title, as suggested by the Examiner.

2. The Examiner noted that the drawings are missing from the Application file. Drawings were provided with the copy of the priority application Publication No. WO 00/51809 that was included with the application as filed. An additional copy of the drawings is included with this response for the Examiner's convenience and originals will be mailed separately.

3. Claims 20, 22-24, 28, 33, 35-37, 41 45 and 47-50 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Almquist et al (WO 96/23647). Almquist et al. teaches a rapid prototyping process and apparatus as set forth in the instant claims, including the aspects of a recoater blade and a rotating roller. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action objected to, but indicated as being allowable, dependent claims 21, 25-27, 29-32, 34, 38-40, 42-44, 46 and 51-54. The claims were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have therefore incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 25 into independent claim 20, dependent claim 39 into independent claim 33, and limitations from claim 51 into independent claim 45 thereby placing the independent claims, as well as the dependent claims, in condition for allowance over the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and early allowance are respectfully requested.

4. In summary, claims 20, 33, 45 and 47-53 have been amended. Claims 25 and 39 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 20-24, 26-38, and 40-54 remain in the application. The title has been amended.

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Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the Applicants' attorney collect at Valencia, California, if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the application not ready for examination or final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
3D Systems, Inc.

Dated: December 18, 2003  
26081 Avenue Hall  
Valencia, CA 91355  
(661) 295-5600, ext. 2404



Ralph D'Alessandro, Reg. No. 28,838  
Attorney for Applicants